

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Re: Application of: Guy GENTET et al.  
Serial No.: 10/573,642  
Filed: March 27, 2006  
For: A NUCLEAR FUEL ASSEMBLY INCLUDING AN  
INTERNAL REINFORCING DEVICE  
Art Unit: 3663  
Examiner: Erin M. Boyd

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 10, 2009

**APPELLANT'S BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37**

Sir:

Appellants submit this brief for the consideration of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (the "Board") in support of their appeal of the Final Rejection dated May 8, 2009 and the Advisory Action dated October 7, 2009 in this application. The statutory fee of \$540.00 is submitted concurrently herewith. If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

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## 1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is AREVA NP, a French corporation having a place of business in Courbevoie, France, and the assignee of the entire right, title and interest in the above-identified patent application. The invention was assigned to AREVA NP by an assignment originating from inventors Guy Gentet, Angelo Beati and Jacques Gauthier. The most recent conveyance was recorded on August 20, 2008 at reel 021425, frame 0824.

## 2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellants, their legal representatives, and assignee are not aware of any appeal or interference that directly affects, will be directly affected by, or will have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

## 3. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 28 are pending in the application. Claims 1 to 14 are canceled. Claims 15 to 28 were rejected in the Final Office Action dated May 8, 2009.

The rejections to claims 15 to 28 thus are appealed. A copy of appealed claims 15 to 28 is attached hereto as Appendix A.

## 4. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments have been filed subsequent to the May 8, 2009 Final Office Action.

## 5. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Independent claim 15 recites a nuclear fuel assembly comprising: a group of nuclear fuel rods (for example, Substitute Specification page 5, line 26; for example, rods 3 in Figure 1) and a support skeleton (for example, Substitute Specification page 5, lines 26 to 27; for

example, skeleton 5 in Figure 1), the assembly comprising: two nozzles (for example, Substitute Specification page 6, lines 2 to 3; for example, bottom nozzle 7 and top nozzle 9 in Figure 1); guide tubes interconnecting the nozzles (for example, Substitute Specification page 6, lines 9 to 10; for example, bottom nozzle 7, top nozzle 9 and guide tubes 11 in Figure 1); and spacer grids secured to the guide tubes (for example, Substitute Specification page 6, lines 23 to 24; for example, spacer grids 13 and guide tubes 11 in Figure 3) and serving to hold the rods (for example, Substitute Specification page 6, lines 6 to 7; for example, spacer grids 13 and rods 3 in Figure 1); the nuclear fuels rods extending along a longitudinal direction and being disposed in a substantially regular array (for example, Substitute Specification page 5, lines 29 to 32; for example, rods 3 in Figure 3); the assembly including at least one support skeleton reinforcing device disposed between two successive spacer grids (for example, Substitute Specification page 7, lines 5 to 6; for example, intermediate reinforcing device 21 and spacer grids 13 in Figure 1) and secured to the guide tubes (for example, Substitute Specification page 8, lines 15 to 18; for example, intermediate reinforcing device 21 and guide tubes 11 in Figure 2), and the reinforcing device being disposed inside the group of rods and presenting a transverse extent that is less than the transverse extent of the array of rods (for example, Substitute Specification page 12, lines 32 to 36; for example, reinforcing plate 21, transverse extent E and rods 3 in Figure 9).

## 6. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 15 to 19 and 21 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,625,657 to Gallacher (hereinafter "Gallacher"). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gallacher.

## 7. ARGUMENTS

### A. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections

#### Claim 15 Argued Separately

Claims 15 to 19 and 21 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gallacher.

Gallacher discloses a method for repairing a nuclear fuel rod assembly with a damaged fuel rod and/or a damaged spacer. The “nuclear fuel rod assembly [has] a plurality of spaced apart grid spacers comprising an arrangement of a first plurality of grid strips intersecting each other to form a first plurality of spacer cells through which fuel rods extend and for maintaining the fuel rods in a predetermined position within said assembly, an upper tie plate located at the top of said assembly, and a grid spacer having a damaged spacer cell.” (Col. 2, lines 29 to 36).

Claim 15 recites “[a] nuclear fuel assembly comprising:  
a group of nuclear fuel rods and a support skeleton, the assembly comprising:

two nozzles;

guide tubes interconnecting the nozzles; and

spacer grids secured to the guide tubes and serving to hold the rods;

the nuclear fuels rods extending along a longitudinal direction and being disposed in a substantially regular array;

the assembly including at least one support skeleton reinforcing device disposed between two successive spacer grids and secured to the guide tubes, and the reinforcing device being disposed inside the group of rods and presenting a transverse extent that is less than the transverse extent of the array of rods.”

Gallacher fails to teach or show “at least one support skeleton reinforcing device disposed between two successive spacer grids and secured to the guide tubes,” as required in claim 15. The Office Action is in clear error in asserting in section 3 on page 2 that in Gallacher the “guide tubes are secured to the fuel rods and the reinforcing device is secured to the fuel rods; thus the guide tubes are indirectly secured to the reinforcing device.” The word “secured” means “firmly fixed” or “fastened.” (See attached copy of definitions for the word secure from thefreedictionary.com, on page 1, verb definition 2; page 2, verb definition 4). The guide tubes 14 are not firmly fixed or fastened to the fuel rods 16 of Gallacher since, as acknowledged in the

Office Action, sliding is permitted between the fuel rods 16 and the spacer grids 18 of Gallacher.

“Springs incorporated in the spacer grids are most frequently used to permit some sliding of the fuel rods with respect to the spacer grids. In some of the designs, the spacer grid is free to move axially a small amount to accommodate minor changes in the axial length of the fuel rods during irradiation.” (Col. 1, lines 46 to 53) (emphasis added). Such a sliding movement between spacer grid and fuel rods has to be allowed, especially to allow for the longitudinal expansion of the fuel rods due to irradiation. While the words “most frequently” are used in this passage, this sliding possibility is actually present in the spacer grids of Gallacher and used to remove and reintroduce fuel rods when mounting the repair grid 50. (See steps c and f of col. 5, lines 9 to 44).

The Examiner asserts on page 2 of the Advisory Action that “while the term ‘secured’ is defined as ‘to fasten’, the term ‘fasten’ is defined as ‘to join’ or ‘to connect.’” However the Examiner fails to cite where the definitions for “fasten” come from. The term “fasten” means “to attach firmly to something else, as by pinning or nailing” and “to close, as by fixing firmly in place.” (See attached copy of definitions for the word fasten from thefreedictionary.com, on page 1, verb definition 1 and 2). The movement allowed in Gallacher fails to “secure” the fuel rods 16 to the spacer grids 18 and therefore fails to secure the repair grid 50 to the guide tubes 14.

Furthermore, even if the guide tubes were secured to the fuel rods, which they are not, the fuel rods of Gallacher are not even secured to the reinforcing device as asserted in the Office Action.

Therefore, since Gallacher does not disclose a support skeleton reinforcing device that is secured to guide tubes, it does not teach all limitations of claim 15, Gallacher cannot anticipate claim 15.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 15 and claims 16 to 19 and 21 to 28, dependent on claim 15, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

## **B. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections**

### Claim 20 Argued Separately

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gallacher.

Claim 20 is dependent on claim 19, which in turn is dependent on claim 15. Thus, in light of the discussion above regarding independent claim 15, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, on page 6 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts "it would have been obvious through routine experimentation and optimization for one of skill in the art to construct the reinforcing device extend longitudinally as far as the spacer grid immediately below the reinforcing device." However there is no reason or motivation for one of skill in the art to extend the repair grid 50 of Gallacher "longitudinally as far as the spacer grid immediately below the reinforcing device," as claimed. The repair grid of Gallacher is only intended to cover the damaged fuel rod and would not extend any further. For this additional reason, the withdrawal of the rejection to claim 20 is respectfully requested.

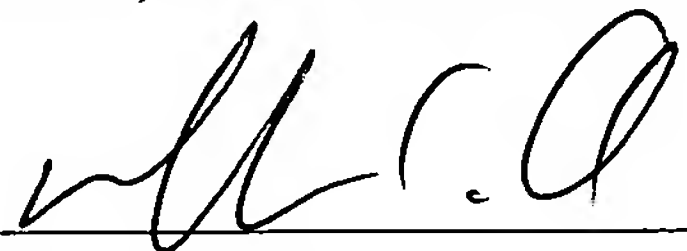
**CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of this appeal brief is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

DATED: November 10, 2009

By: 

William C. Gehris, Reg. No. 38,156

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**APPENDIX A:**

PENDING CLAIMS 15 to 28 OF U.S.  
APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 10/573,642

Claim 15 (previously presented): A nuclear fuel assembly comprising:

a group of nuclear fuel rods and a support skeleton, the assembly comprising:

two nozzles;

guide tubes interconnecting the nozzles; and

spacer grids secured to the guide tubes and serving to hold the rods;

the nuclear fuel rods extending along a longitudinal direction and being disposed in a substantially regular array;

the assembly including at least one support skeleton reinforcing device disposed between two successive spacer grids and secured to the guide tubes, and the reinforcing device being disposed inside the group of rods and presenting a transverse extent that is less than the transverse extent of the array of rods.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 15, wherein the reinforcing device does not extend into a peripheral layer of rods.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 16, wherein the reinforcing device does not extend between the peripheral layer of rods and an adjacent layer of rods.



Claim 18 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 15, wherein the reinforcing device extends longitudinally substantially as far as a spacer grid immediately above the reinforcing device.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 15, wherein the reinforcing device defines at least one transverse flow passage above the spacer grid immediately beneath the reinforcing device, the passage serving to pass a cooling fluid for flowing through the assembly.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the reinforcing device extends longitudinally substantially as far as the spacer grid immediately below the reinforcing device, and wherein the passage is formed by an opening formed through a bottom end of the reinforcing device.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the bottom end of the reinforcing device is disposed at a distance from the spacer grid immediately beneath the reinforcing device so as to define the transverse flow passage for the cooling fluid.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 15, wherein the reinforcing device is secured to at least two guide tubes.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 15, wherein the reinforcing device is a substantially plane plate.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 23, wherein the reinforcing device is substantially parallel to one of faces of the group of nuclear fuel rods.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 15, wherein the reinforcing device is an angle member forming at least one L-shape.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 25, wherein the angle member is disposed in a corner of the group of nuclear fuel rods.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 15, wherein the reinforcing device does not have a mixer arrangement for mixing the cooling fluid that is to flow through the assembly.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The assembly according to claim 15, wherein the reinforcing device has cells for receiving the nuclear fuel rods, wherein the dimensions of each of the cells are greater than the diameters of the nuclear fuel rods.

## **APPENDIX B**

Evidence Appendix under 37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(ix):

No evidence pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.130, 1.131 or 1.132 and relied upon in the appeal has been submitted by appellants or entered by the examiner.

## **APPENDIX C**

Related proceedings appendix under 37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(x):

As stated in "2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES" of this appeal brief, appellants, their legal representatives, and assignee are not aware of any appeal or interference that directly affects, will be directly affected by, or will have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

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### se·cure (sĭ-kyŭŕ')

adj. se·cur·er, se·curest

1. Free from danger or attack: *a secure fortress.*
2. Free from risk of loss; safe: *Her papers were secure in the vault.*
3. Free from the risk of being intercepted or listened to by unauthorized persons: *Only one telephone line in the embassy was secure.*
4. Free from fear, anxiety, or doubt.
5.
  - a. Not likely to fail or give way; stable: *a secure stepladder.*
  - b. Firmly fastened: *a secure lock.*
6. Reliable; dependable: *secure investments.*
7. Assured; certain: *With three goals in the first period they had a secure victory, but somehow they lost.*
8. Archaic Careless or overconfident.

tr.v. se·cured, se·cur·ing, se·cures

1. To guard from danger or risk of loss: *The troops secured the area before the civilians were allowed to return.*
2. To make firm or tight; fasten. See Synonyms at [fasten](#).
3. To make certain; ensure: *The speaker could not secure the goodwill of the audience.*
4.
  - a. To guarantee payment of (a loan, for example).
  - b. To guarantee payment to (a creditor).
5. To get possession of; acquire: *secured a job.*
6. To capture or confine: *They secured the suspect in the squad car.*
7. To bring about; effect: *secured release of the hostages.*
8. To protect or ensure the privacy or secrecy of (a

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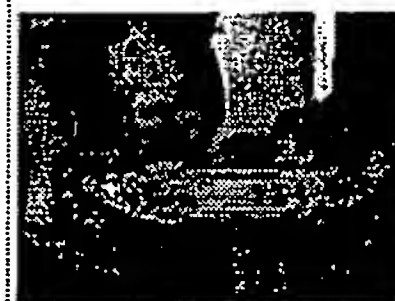
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telephone line, for example).

[Latin *sēcūrus* : *sē-*, *without*; see *s (w) e-* in Indo-European roots + *cūra*, *care*; see *cure*.]

- se·cur'a·ble *adj.*
- se·cure'ly *adv.*
- se·cure'ment *n.*
- se·cure'ness *n.*
- se·cur'er *n.*

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secure

Adjective

- 1. free from danger or damage
- 2. free from fear, doubt, or care
- 3. tightly locked or well protected
- 4. fixed or tied firmly in position
- 5. able to be relied on: *secure profits*

Verb

- [-curing, -cured]
- 1. to obtain: *to secure a change in German policy*
- 2. to make or become free from danger or fear
- 3. to make safe from loss, theft, or attack
- 4. to attach; make fast or firm
- 5. to guarantee (payment of a loan) by giving something as security [Latin *securus* free from care]

securely *adv*

Collins Essential English Dictionary 2nd Edition 2006 © HarperCollins Publishers 2004, 2006

In an operational context, to gain possession of a position or terrain feature, with or without force, and to make such disposition as will prevent, as far as possible, its destruction or loss by enemy action. See also denial measure.

Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms. US Department of Defense 2005.

Thesaurus

Legend: |Synonyms |Related Words |Antonyms

Verb 1. secure - get by special effort; "He procured extra cigarettes even though they were rationed"

|procure

|suborn - procure (false testimony or perjury)

|obtain - come into possession of; "How did you obtain the visa?"

|copyright - secure a copyright on a written work; "did you copyright your manuscript?"

|patent - obtain a patent for; "Should I patent this invention?"

|enlist, engage - hire for work or assistance;



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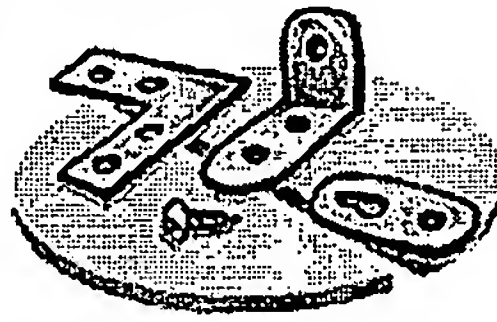
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"engage aid, help, services, or support"

2. **secure** - cause to be firmly attached; "fasten the lock onto the door"; "she fixed her gaze on the man"



fasten, fix

strap - secure (a sprained joint) with a strap

tie, bind - fasten or secure with a rope, string, or cord; "They tied their victim to the chair"

rig - connect or secure to; "They rigged the bomb to the ignition"

bitt - secure with a bitt; "bitt the ship line"

latch - fasten with a latch; "latch the door"

garter - fasten with or as if with a garter

chain - fasten or secure with chains; "Chain the chairs together"

cable - fasten with a cable; "cable trees"

picket - fasten with a picket; "picket the goat"

rope up - attach to one another, for safety; "The mountaineers roped up when they started the final ascent"

attach - cause to be attached

cinch, girth - tie a cinch around; "cinch horses"

bandage, bind - wrap around with something so as to cover or enclose

cramp - secure with a cramp; "cramp the wood"

cleat - secure on a cleat; "cleat a line"

cast anchor, drop anchor, anchor - secure a vessel with an anchor; "We anchored at Baltimore"

anchor, ground - fix firmly and stably; "anchor the lamppost in concrete"

moor - secure with cables or ropes; "moor the boat"

moor, berth, tie up - secure in or as if in a berth or dock; "tie up the boat"

spike - secure with spikes

sew, sew together, stitch, run up - fasten by sewing; do needlework

crank - fasten with a crank

noose - secure with a noose

chock - secure with chocks

brad - fasten with brads

bight - fasten with a bight

belay - fasten a boat to a bitt, pin, or cleat

belay - turn a rope round an object or person in order to secure it or him

bar - secure with, or as if with, bars; "He barred the door"

clamp - fasten or fix with a clamp; "clamp the chair together until the glue has hardened"

velcro - fasten with Velcro; "velcro the belt"

stay - fasten with stays



clinch - flatten the ends (of nails and rivets); "the nails were clinched"

clinch - secure or fasten by flattening the ends of nails or bolts; "The girder was clinched into the wall"

lock - fasten with a lock; "lock the bike to the fence"

lock up - secure by locking; "lock up the house before you go on vacation"

hasp - secure or lock with a hasp

zip, zip up, zipper - close with a zipper; "Zip up your jacket--it's cold"

tack - fasten with tacks; "tack the notice on the board"

string - string together; tie or fasten with a string; "string the package"

hook - fasten with a hook

belt - fasten with a belt; "belt your trousers"

cement - bind or join with or as if with cement

grout - bind with grout; "grout the bathtub"

staple - secure or fasten with a staple or staples; "staple the papers together"

rivet - fasten with a rivet or rivets

button - fasten with buttons; "button the dress"

pin - attach or fasten with pins or as if with pins; "pin the needle to the shirt". "pin the blame on the innocent man"

hang, hang up - cause to be hanging or suspended; "Hang that picture on the wall"

hang - place in position as by a hinge so as to allow free movement in one direction; "hang a door"

deposit, stick, wedge, lodge - put, fix, force, or implant; "lodge a bullet in the table"; "stick your thumb in the crack"

entrench, intrench - fix firmly or securely

buckle, clasp - fasten with a buckle or buckles

brooch, clasp - fasten with or as if with a brooch

stake - tie or fasten to a stake; "stake your goat"

### 3. **secure** - assure payment of

guarantee, vouch - give surety or assume responsibility; "I vouch for the quality of my products"

certify - guarantee payment on; of checks

### 4. **secure** - make certain of; "This nest egg will ensure a nice retirement for us"; "Preparation will guarantee success!"

assure, ensure, guarantee, insure

guarantee, vouch - give surety or assume responsibility; "I vouch for the quality of my products"

doom - make certain of the failure or destruction of; "This decision will doom me to lose my position"

make - assure the success of; "A good review by this critic will make your play!"

5. **secure** - fill or close tightly with or as if with a plug; "plug the hole"; "stop up the leak"

plug, stop up

stopper, stopple - close or secure with or as if with a stopper; "She stoppered the wine bottle"; "The mothers stoppered their babies' mouths with pacifiers"

tampon - plug with a tampon

fill up, close - fill or stop up; "Can you close the cracks with caulking?"

chink - fill the chinks of, as with caulking

cork, cork up - close a bottle with a cork

6. **secure** - furnish with battens; "batten ships"

batten, batten down

beef up, fortify, strengthen - make strong or stronger; "This exercise will strengthen your upper body"; "strengthen the relations between the two countries"

- Adj. 1. **secure** - free from fear or doubt; easy in mind; "he was secure that nothing will be held against him"

unafraid, untroubled

insecure - lacking self-confidence or assurance; "an insecure person lacking mental stability"

2. **secure** - free from danger or risk; "secure from harm"; "his fortune was secure"; "made a secure place for himself in his field"

protected - kept safe or defended from danger or injury or loss; "the most protected spot I could find"

safe - free from danger or the risk of harm; "a safe trip"; "you will be safe here"; "a safe place"; "a safe bet"

invulnerable - immune to attack; impregnable; "gunners raked the beach from invulnerable positions on the cliffs"

unsafe, insecure - lacking in security or safety; "his fortune was increasingly insecure"; "an insecure future"

3. **secure** - not likely to fail or give way; "the lock was secure"; "a secure foundation"; "a secure hold on her wrist"

fixed - securely placed or fastened or set; "a fixed piece of wood"; "a fixed resistor"

insecure - not firm or firmly fixed; likely to fail or give way; "the hinge is insecure"

4. **secure** - immune to attack; incapable of being tampered with; "an impregnable fortress"; "fortifications that made the frontier inviolable"; "a secure telephone connection"



impregnable, unassailable, unattackable,  
inviolable, strong  
invulnerable - immune to attack; impregnable;  
"gunners raked the beach from invulnerable  
positions on the cliffs"

5. **secure** - financially sound; "a good investment";  
"a secure investment"

dependable, safe, good  
sound - financially secure and safe; "sound  
investments"; "a sound economy"

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**secure**

- verb* 1. OBTAIN, get, acquire, land (*informal*) score  
(*slang*) gain, pick up, get hold of, come by, procure,  
make sure of, win possession of << OPPOSITE lose
- verb* 2. ATTACH, stick, fix, bind, pin, lash, glue, fasten,  
rivet << OPPOSITE detach
- verb* 3. GUARANTEE, insure, ensure, assure <<  
OPPOSITE endanger
- adjective* 4. SAFE, protected, shielded, sheltered,  
immune, unassailable, impregnable << OPPOSITE  
unprotected
- adjective* 5. FAST, firm, fixed, tight, stable, steady,  
fortified, fastened, dependable, immovable <<  
OPPOSITE insecure
- adjective* 6. RELIABLE, definite, solid, absolute,  
conclusive, in the bag (*informal*)
- adjective* 7. CONFIDENT, sure, easy, certain, assured,  
reassured << OPPOSITE uneasy

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**Translations**

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**secure**

*adj* **secure** [si'kjʊə]

- 1 (often with *against* or *from*) safe; free from danger, loss  
etc *Is your house secure against burglary?; He went on  
holiday, secure in the knowledge that he had done well  
in the exam.*
- 2 firm, fastened, or fixed *Is that door secure?*
- 3 definite; not likely to be lost *She has had a secure  
offer of a job; He has a secure job.*

*v*

- 1 (with *against* or *from* (something bad)) to guarantee or  
make safe *Keep your jewellery in the bank to secure it  
against theft.*
- 2 to fasten or make firm *He secured the boat with a*

rope.

adv se'curely

n se'curity

the state of being, or making safe, secure, free from danger etc *the security of a happy home; This alarm system will give the factory some security; There has to be tight security at a prison; (also adjective ) the security forces; a security guard.*

security risk

a person considered not safe to be given a job involving knowledge of secrets because he might give secret information to an enemy etc.

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secured

creditor

securely

Securement

Secureness

Securer

tie down point

More results

References in classic literature?

I shall present the public with one or two extracts from it: "An entire and perfect union will be the solid foundation of lasting peace: It will **secure** your religion, liberty, and property; remove the animosities amongst yourselves, and the jealousies and differences betwixt our two kingdoms.

Federalist Papers Authored by John Jay by Jay, John

View in context

This would make his position more **secure** and durable, as it has made that of the Turk in Greece, who, notwithstanding all the other measures taken by him for holding that state, if he had not settled there, would not have been able to keep it.

The Prince by Machiavelli, Nicolo

View in context

But the Madagonians were unsuccessful, which so chagrined them that never thereafter in all their land was a Novakatkan **secure** in property or life.

Fantastic-Fables by Bierce, Ambrose

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## fasten

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**fas·ten** (făs'ten)

*v.* **fas·tened**, **fas·ten·ing**, **fas·tens**

*v. tr.*

1. To attach firmly to something else, as by pinning or nailing.
  2.
    - a. To make fast or secure.
    - b. To close, as by fixing firmly in place.
  3. To fix or direct steadily: *fastened her gaze on the stranger.*
  4. To place; attribute: *fastened the blame on the weather.*
  5. To impose (oneself) without welcome.
- v. intr.*
1. To become attached, fixed, or joined.
  2. To take firm hold; cling fast: *fasten on a notion.*
  3. To focus steadily; concentrate: *All eyes fastened on the speaker.*

[Middle English *fastnen*, from Old English *fæstnian*; see *past* – in Indo-European roots.]

**fas'ten·er** *n.*

**Synonyms:** **fasten**, **anchor**, **fix**, **moor**<sup>1</sup>, **secure**

These verbs mean to cause to remain firmly in position or place: *fastened our seat belts; anchored the television antenna to the roof; fixed the flagpole in concrete; will moor the rowboat at the dock; secured the bolt after closing the door.*

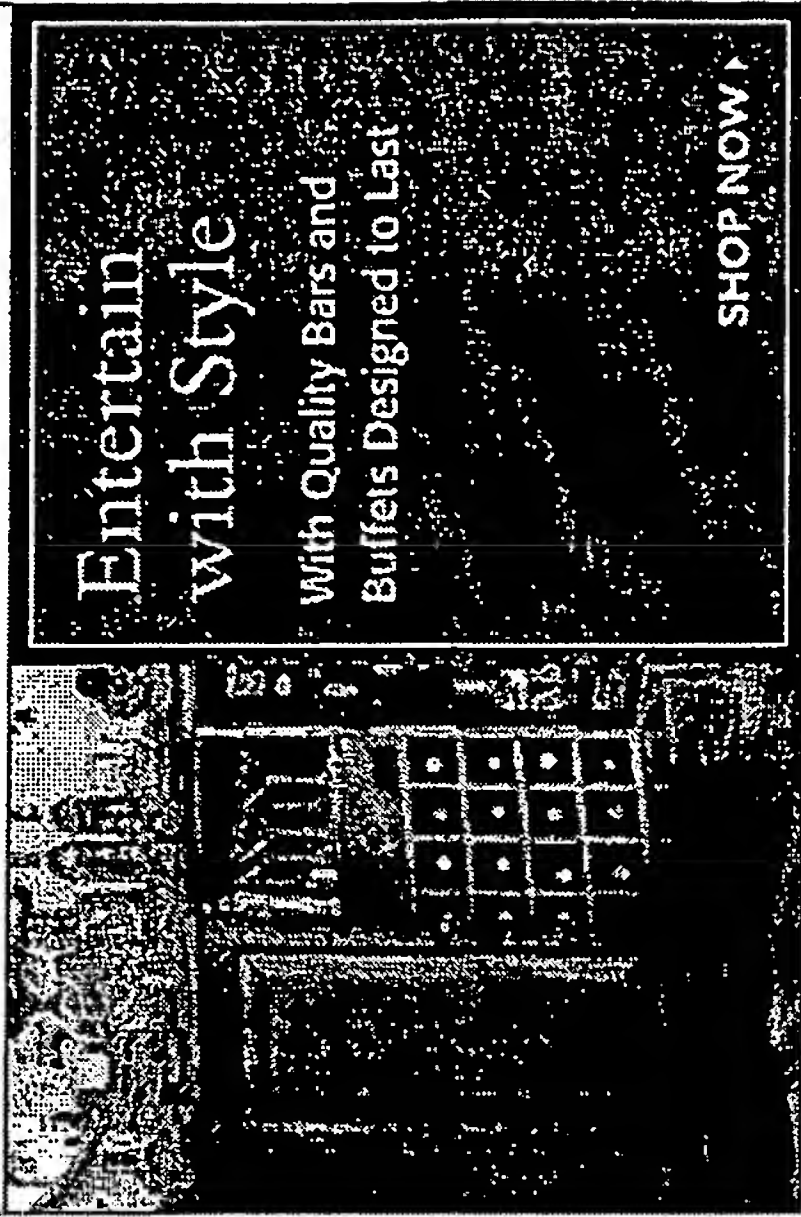
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- cinch, girth - tie a cinch around; "cinch horses"
- bandage, bind - wrap around with something so as to cover or enclose
- cramp - secure with a cramp; "cramp the wood"
- cleat - secure on a cleat; "cleat a line"
- cast anchor, drop anchor, anchor - secure a vessel with an anchor; "We anchored at Baltimore"
- anchor, ground - fix firmly and stably; "anchor the lamppost in concrete"
- moor - secure with cables or ropes; "moor the boat"
- moor, berth, tie up - secure in or as if in a berth or dock; "tie up the boat"
- spike - secure with spikes
- sew, sew together, stitch, run up - fasten by sewing; do needlework
- crank - fasten with a crank
- noose - secure with a noose
- chock - secure with chocks
- brad - fasten with brads
- bight - fasten with a bight
- belay - fasten a boat to a bitt, pin, or cleat
- belay - turn a rope round an object or person in order to secure it or him
- bar - secure with, or as if with, bars; "He barred the door"
- clamp - fasten or fix with a clamp; "clamp the chair together until the glue has hardened"
- velcro - fasten with Velcro; "velcro the belt"
- stay - fasten with stays
- clinch - flatten the ends (of nails and rivets); "the nails were clinched"
- clinch - secure or fasten by flattening the ends of nails or bolts; "The girder was clinched into the wall"
- lock - fasten with a lock; "lock the bike to the fence"
- lock up - secure by locking; "lock up the house before you go on vacation"
- hasp - secure or lock with a hasp
- zip, zip up, zipper - close with a zipper; "Zip up your jacket--it's cold"
- tack - fasten with tacks; "tack the notice on the board"
- string - string together; tie or fasten with a string; "string the package"
- hook - fasten with a hook
- belt - fasten with a belt; "belt your trousers"
- cement - bind or join with or as if with cement
- grout - bind with grout; "grout the bathtub"

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staple - secure or fasten with a staple or staples; "staple the papers together"

rivet - fasten with a rivet or rivets

button - fasten with buttons; "button the dress"

pin - attach or fasten with pins or as if with pins; "pin the needle to the shirt". "pin the blame on the innocent man"

hang, hang up - cause to be hanging or suspended; "Hang that picture on the wall"

hang - place in position as by a hinge so as to allow free movement in one direction; "hang a door"

deposit, stick, wedge, lodge - put, fix, force, or implant; "lodge a bullet in the table"; "stick your thumb in the crack"

entrench, intrench - fix firmly or securely

buckle, clasp - fasten with a buckle or buckles

brooch, clasp - fasten with or as if with a brooch

stake - tie or fasten to a stake; "stake your goat"

unfasten - cause to become undone; "unfasten your belt"

2. **fasten** - become fixed or fastened; "This dress fastens in the back"

glue - be fixed as if by glue; "His eyes were glued on her"

attach - become attached; "The spider's thread attached to the window sill"

stick - fasten into place by fixing an end or point into something; "stick the corner of the sheet under the mattress"

stick - fasten with or as with pins or nails; "stick the photo onto the corkboard"

stick - fasten with an adhesive material like glue; "stick the poster onto the wall"

unfasten - become undone or untied; "The shoelaces unfastened"

3. **fasten** - attach to; "They fastened various nicknames to each other"

attach - cause to be attached

4. **fasten** - make tight or tighter; "Tighten the wire"

tighten

alter, change, modify - cause to change; make different; cause a transformation; "The advent of the automobile may have altered the growth pattern of the city"; "The discussion has changed my thinking about the issue"

frap - take up the slack of; "frap a rope"

firm, tauten - make taut or tauter; "tauten a rope"

screw - tighten or fasten by means of screwing motions; "Screw the bottle cap on"

wind up, wind - coil the spring of (some mechanical device) by turning a stem; "wind



your watch"

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**fasten**  
verb

- 1. secure, close, lock, chain, seal, bolt, do up *He fastened the door behind him.*
- 2. tie, bind, lace, tie up *The dress fastens down the back.*
- 3. fix, join, link, connect, grip, attach, anchor, affix, make firm, make fast *Use screws to fasten the shelf to the wall.*
- 4. concentrate, focus, fix *Her thoughts fastened on one event.*
- 5. direct, aim, focus, fix, concentrate, bend, rivet *They fastened their gaze on the table and did not look up.*

Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002

**Translations**

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**fasten**

v **fasten** ['fa:sn]

to fix or join (together) *Fasten the gate!; She fastened a flower to the front of her dress; He fastened his eyes upon her face.*

n **fastener**

something that fastens things (together) *a zip-fastener.*

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References in classic literature

The Bramble, interrupting him, said, "But you really must have been out of your senses to **fasten** yourself on me, who am myself always accustomed to **fasten** upon others.

*Fables by Aesop* [View in context](#)

My first act before I went into the pantry was to **fasten** the door between the kitchen and the scullery.

*The War Of The Worlds by Wells. H.G.* [View in context](#)

Then, with the Wizard's help, he tried to **fasten** some of the wings to the old cab-horse.

*Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz by Baum, L. Frank* [View in context](#)

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